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SEPTEMBER'S SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

ROK – U.S. Alliance Conducts Strategic Displays of Power (13, 21, and 26 Sep)

In reaction to recent North Korean provocations, including its fifth nuclear test, USFK conducted three displays of power in September, demonstrating the steadfast U.S. commitment to the defense of South Korea.

A U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer performs a flyover escorted by ROK Air Force F-15s, South Korea, September 21, 2016.



PACOM PHOTO

On September 13, two USAF B-1B Lancers from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, conducted a low-level flight over Osan Air Base. On September 21, a U.S. Air Force B-1B strategic bomber again flew from Andersen Air Force Base, this time landing at Osan Air Base. On September 26, the U.S. Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Spruance (DDG 111) joined ROKN Aegis destroyers, submarines, anti-submarine helicopters, as well as U.S. and ROKN P-3 patrol aircraft, in an operation that highlighted the unified naval force capabilities in defense of the Republic of Korea from surface, subsurface, and ballistic missile threats.

Military leadership in both countries said these events provided notable demonstrations of the strength of the Alliance between the United States and the ROK.

“North Korea’s nuclear test is a dangerous escalation and poses an unacceptable threat,” said UNC/CFC/USFK Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks. “The United States has an unshakable commitment to defend allies in the region, and will take necessary steps to do so.”

CFC Deputy Commander Retires (23 Sep)

CFC Deputy Commander Gen. Kim Hyun-jip retired on 23 Sep. His dedication to the ROK-U.S. Alliance has made an invaluable and lasting contribution to both the ROK and United States in the face of an evolving North Korean threat. He will be replaced by Gen. Leem Ho-young.

“Gen. Kim has provided impressive leadership to CFC. The Alliance is stronger and more effective for his service,” reflected Gen. Brooks. “We are also excited to welcome Gen. Leem. With his outstanding record of accomplishment in the ROK military, we know already that he will build further on Gen. Kim’s important legacy.”

MEDEVAC Exemplifies Importance of U.S.-ROK Partnership (12 Sep)

During operations in waters east of the Korean Peninsula, the guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur notified the Commander of Destroyer Squadron 15 that a Sailor on board required MEDEVAC, while the Decatur was not in close range to available U.S. air assets.

The ROK Navy’s 631 Squadron quickly launched a UH-60 Black Hawk from Pohang to transport the Sailor. As the UH-60 flew toward Decatur, a ROK Air Force HH-60 departed Chongju with a medical team to meet the Sailor on the island of Ulleung-do before transporting the Sailor to the mainland for treatment at Ajou University Hospital.

“The ROKN aircrew did a fantastic job working with our team, and I would like to personally thank them for the outstanding support of Decatur and safely transporting our Sailor,” said Cmdr. Garrett Miller, commanding officer of the Decatur. “The successful execution of this medical evacuation highlights the importance of our Navy’s interoperability with our allies.”

Alliance Celebrates Incheon Landing Commemoration (15 Sep)

More than 3,000 guests joined U.S. and ROK Navy and Marine Corps forces in the commemoration of the 65th

ROK Navy and coalition forces demonstrate the capabilities of a landing craft air cushion during the 65th Annual Incheon Amphibious Landing Operations Commemoration Ceremony, Incheon, South Korea, September 15, 2015.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO/MC1 ABRAHAM ESSENMACHER



anniversary of the Incheon Amphibious Landing Operation.

“The enduring partnership the U.S. and ROK share was forged in battles such as Incheon,” said Rear Adm. Bill Byrne, commander of U.S. Naval Forces, Korea.

U.S. Naval Forces Korea Conducts Change of Command in Busan (8 Sep)

Rear Adm. Bill Byrne, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea (CNFK) was awarded the Republic of Korea (ROK) Order of National Security Merit Cheonsu Medal by ROK Chief of Naval Operations Jung Ho-sub during a change of command ceremony for CNFK. During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Brad Cooper became the 35th commander of CNFK.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO/MC3 WESLEY J. BREEDLOVE



Rear Adm. Bill Byrne receives the Republic of Korea Order of National Security Merit Cheonsu Medal.

SEPTEMBER'S KEY VISITORS

We are honored to welcome Distinguished Visitors to learn about the Command, our mission, our people, and to exchange ideas.

- Hon. Mark Rutte, Dutch Prime Minister
- GEN Darren W. McDew, Commander, U.S. TRANSCOM
- Ambassador David Shear, Principal Undersecretary of Defense for Policy
- Hon. S. Leslie Ireland, Asst Secretary of the Treasury for Intel and Analysis
- Hon. Katherine Hammack, ASA/IE&E
- Mr. Tom Brady, Director, DoDEA